

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed **July 8, 2002**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-30. Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maier et al (US. Patent No. 5,625,815, hereinafter "Maier") in view of Grace (US. Patent No. 5,519,859, hereinafter "Grace").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-30 were rejected as being unpatentable over Maier in view of Grace. Regarding claims 2, 12, and 22, Applicant respectfully points out that Grace teaches, "...the system allows a lay user to easily update and modify queries of a relational database." (see Grace, Col 10, lines 45-48). Therefore, the user can **modify the query to provide different query results**.

In contrast, the instant invention discloses the **system modifies the query to cause an audit record to be created** (see page 8, lines 3-5). The system automatically modifying the query to cause an audit record to be created is not the same as a user modifying the query to provide different query results. Having the system modify the query is advantageous because the system can create the audit record based on a specified auditing condition and only when auditing is enabled. There is nothing within Maier or Grace, either separately or in concert, which would suggest the system should modify the query to cause an audit record to be created.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 21 to clarify that the system **automatically modifies** the query prior to processing the query, so that processing the query **causes an audit record to be created** and recorded for rows in relational tables that are accessed by the query and that satisfy an auditing condition. Dependent claims 2, 12, and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 21 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 3-10, which depend upon claim 1, claims 13-20, which depend upon claim 11, and claims 23-30, which depend upon claim 21 are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

Version with marking to show changes made

The Claims:

1 1. (Once Amended) A method for selectively auditing accesses to a
2 relational database system, comprising:
3 receiving a query from a client at a database server that processes queries
4 for the relational database system;
5 automatically modifying the query prior to processing the query, so that
6 processing the query causes an audit record to be created and recorded for rows in
7 relational tables that are accessed by the query and that satisfy an auditing
8 condition;
9 processing the query at the database server to produce a query result;
10 creating [an]the audit record for rows in relational tables that are accessed
11 by the query and that satisfy [an]the auditing condition;
12 recording the audit record in an audit record store; and
13 returning the query result to the client.

1 11. (Once Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing
2 instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a
3 method for selectively auditing accesses to a relational database system, the
4 method comprising:
5 receiving a query from a client at a database server that processes queries
6 for the relational database system;
7 automatically modifying the query prior to processing the query, so that
8 processing the query causes an audit record to be created and recorded for rows in
9 relational tables that are accessed by the query and that satisfy an auditing
10 condition;

11 processing the query at the database server to produce a query result;
12 creating [an]the audit record for rows in relational tables that are accessed
13 by the query and that satisfy [an]the auditing condition;
14 recording the audit record in an audit record store; and
15 returning the query result to the client.

1 21. (Once Amended) An apparatus that selectively audits accesses to a
2 relational database system, comprising:
3 a database server;
4 a receiving mechanism, at the database server, that is configured to receive
5 a query from a client;
6 a query modification mechanism that is configured to modify the query
7 prior to processing the query, so that processing the query causes an audit record
8 to be created and recorded for rows in relational tables that are accessed by the
9 query and that satisfy an auditing condition;
10 a query processor that is configured to process the query at the database
11 server to produce a query result;
12 an auditing mechanism that is configured to,
13 create [an]the audit record for rows in relational tables that
14 are accessed by the query and that satisfy [an]the auditing
15 condition, and to
16 record the audit record in an audit record store; and
17 a returning mechanism that returns the query result to the client.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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